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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0083  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1074  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0945  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 3259  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 1522  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2123  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000080

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL, ECA, IIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [SCUL](#) [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER OF CULTURE AND BROADCASTING

[11](#). (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

[12](#). (SBU) SUMMARY: During the January 11 Cabinet of Ministers meeting, President Berdimuhamedov named Deputy Minister of Culture Gulmyrat Myradov the new Minister of Culture and TV/Radio Broadcasting. Myradov is a career civil servant with almost 20 years of Ministry experience and his appointment is de jure recognition of his longtime preeminent role at the Ministry. END SUMMARY.

OVERDUE RESHUFFLING AT MINISTRY OF CULTURE

[13](#). (U) The appointment of Gulmyrat Myradov (DPOB: 1961, Ashgabat) as Minister of Culture is long overdue recognition of what many have known for years both inside and outside the Ministry - that Deputy Minister Myradov was in charge. Myradov has spent most of his adult life working at the Ministry, slowly but progressively climbing the chain of command. While still a student at Turkmen State University, he worked as a newspaper correspondent for the teachers' newspaper, "Mugallymlar Gazety." Five years later, Myradov found himself running two newspapers, "Nesil" (Generation) and "Diyar" (Motherland). In 2001, former President Niyazov appointed him deputy minister, a job he held for three years before becoming head of the General Services Department in 2004.

[14](#). (U) In June 2007, President Berdimuhamedov asked Myradov to serve once again as deputy minister. Myradov was supposed to shadow and coach the much younger just-appointed minister, 33 year-old Chary Yardurdyev. Instead, Myradov overshadowed the younger Yardurdyev in the eyes of many inside and outside the Ministry. People understood that if you wanted to do business with the Ministry of Culture, it was critical and necessary to secure the approval of the deputy minister.

[15](#). (SBU) COMMENT: Post has enjoyed a very cordial and productive working relationship with the Ministry of Culture, especially since the appointment of Mr. Myradov in the summer of 2007. Post expects no change in this relationship. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND